

1892-93 - The "4 Atts" Surcharges.4 Atts on 24 Atts.The History of the Issue (Con^d)

to wait for the whole to be done before delivery.

The Siamese surcharge is always of Type 2 in these stamps, but there are three different English settings, as follows:—

Setting 1^bSetting 2^aSetting 2^b

Up to the present we do not know the numbers of these different settings that were printed, nor do we know if the June and July consignments were of different settings, or whether each contained them all.

The method of having the two overprints of this surcharge added to this surcharge at different offices was undoubtedly directly responsible for the arrangement of the overprints in every surcharge until 1904. Before these 4 Atts surcharges were prepared the surcharge on the 1887 issue had always been in a single line at the bottom of the stamp, and undoubtedly the Vacharindi Printing Office were influenced by this when preparing the Siamese surcharge. After this had been over-printed, the Siam Mercantile Press were compelled to place their surcharge at the top of the stamp, and we thus get the combination of English at top and Siamese at bottom which lasted so long.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the great irregularity in the register of the English surcharge is due to the fact that the sheets of stamps had margins of widely different width, and thus accurate registration in the hand-press in which they were printed was almost impossible. In subsequent surcharges someone thought of the plan of folding back the margin under the stamps, and thus registration became much easier. This is the explanation of the inkless and reversed impression of the surcharge that one so often finds on the margins of sheets of subsequent issues.